

## Message Text

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 01 TOKYO 01068 240940Z

ACTION EA-09

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00

PA-01 USIA-06 PRS-01 SP-02 NSC-05 SS-15 /059 W

-----240945Z 019942 /22

P 240909Z JAN 77

FM AMEMBASSY TOKYO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 4968

INFO AMEMBASSY BONN PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY SEOUL PRIORITY

USLO PEKING PRIORITY

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE TOKYO 1068

DEPT PASS ALL OECD CAPITALS

BONN PASS VICE PRESIDENT'S PARTY

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, JA, US (CARTER, JIMMY)

SUBJECT: JAPAN VIEWS THE CARTER INAUGURATION

REF: USIS TOKYO CURRENT REACTION REPORT, JANUARY 21

SUMMARY: MAJOR JAPANESE DAILIES, REASSESSING JIMMY CARTER IN EDITORIALS PEGGED TO INAUGURATION, STILL WONDERING HOW PRESIDENT'S POPULIST ROOTS AND RHETORIC WILL IMPACT ON US POLICY. MOST FOUND PRESIDENT'S "PRUDENT" STATEMENTS AND "CONSERVATIVE" APPOINTMENTS SINCE ELECTION REASSURING, AND ON BALANCE CONCLUDED THAT CHANGES IN US COURSE UNDER PRESIDENT CARTER WILL COME GRADUALLY. TV COVERAGE OF INAUGURAL EVENTS WAS HEAVY. END SUMMARY.

1. MAJOR JAPANESE DAILIES WERE IMPRESSED BY HIGH MORAL

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 02 TOKYO 01068 240940Z

AND SPIRITUAL TONE OF PRESIDENT CARTER'S INAUGURAL ADDRESS, AND BY HUMILITY MANIFESTED IN HIS DECISION TO WALK RATHER THAN RIDE FROM CAPITOL TO WHITE HOUSE. MOST NOTED PRESIDENT'S "PRUDENT" STATEMENTS AND ACTS SINCE ELECTION, INCLUDING, THEY SAID, SCALING DOWN OF CAMPAIGN PROMISES AND CONSERVATIVE APPOINTMENTS TO MAJOR POSTS. EDITORIALS ALSO

POINTED OUT THAT IN SPEECH PRESIDENT AGAIN SHOWED HIMSELF A MAN WITH "STRONG, POPULIST BASE," AND CALLED HIM REFLECTION OF AMERICAN DESIRE TO PUT VIETNAM AND WATERGATE BEHIND AND FIND NEW STARTING POINT.

2. THESE OBSERVATIONS MADE, JAPANESE WERE HARD PUT TO DEDUCE IMPACT THAT "CARTER POPULISM" WILL HAVE ON AMERICAN POLICY.

-- FOREIGN OFFICE ANALYST TOLD PRESS THAT SPEECH SHOWED THAT US RECOGNIZES ITS LIMITATIONS AND SEEKS COOPERATION WITH LIKE-MINDED STATES. HE DREW ATTENTION TO "CARTER'S DETERMINATION TO REMAIN CRITICAL" OF ROK AND SOVIET HUMAN RIGHTS POLICIES, AND WELCOMED DETERMINATION TO CONCLUDE SALT II AGREEMENT.

-- ASAHI CALLED ASSERTION THAT AMERICANS WILL NOT BE INDIFFERENT TO FREEDOM IN OTHER COUNTRIES AS IMPORTANT AS CALL FOR END TO ARMS RACE. REVIEWING DEVELOPMENTS SINCE PRESIDENT'S ELECTION, ASAHI CONCLUDED THAT HE "FORTUNATE TO BECOME PRESIDENT IN RELATIVELY BLESSED POLITICAL SITUATION," AND THOUGHT IT UNLIKELY THAT THERE WOULD BE SUDDEN, PRONOUNCED CHANGES IN US POLICIES.

-- MAINICHI, CONTRASTING CARTER ORATORY WITH KENNEDY'S, JUDGED THAT "POPULIST THEME" WOULD HAVE MAJOR IMPACT ON POLICY. IT PREDICTED THAT US LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 03 TOKYO 01068 240940Z

"IN DIPLOMATIC TALKS WOULD NO LONGER TAKE DOMINEERING STAND AND, INSTEAD, WOULD TALK WITH ANY COUNTRY AS EQUALS." CALL FOR STRONGER ALLIANCES, IT SAID, "MAY BE INTERPRETED AS SEEKING INCREASED BURDEN NOT ONLY BY JAPAN AND EUROPEAN COUNTRIES, BUT ALSO BY US."

-- YOMIURI THOUGHT "BOLD NEW POLICIES" POSSIBLE ONCE NEW ADMINISTRATION HAS GAINED PUBLIC TRUST. IT RECALLED THAT "JAPAN HAS ALREADY BEEN PROMISED TREATMENT AS AN EQUAL PARTNER AND NO ARBITRARY ACTIONS BY THE US." EVEN SO, YOMIURI SPECULATED, POSSIBILITY REMAINS THAT STRESS ON MORALITY MAY LEAD US "TO CREATE UNNECESSARY DIFFICULTIES IN URGING OTHER COUNTRIES TO FOLLOW SUIT."

-- ENGLISH LANGUAGE JAPAN TIMES ALSO CONTRASTED "CARTER'S PRUDENT STATEMENTS AND ACTS" WITH "LINGERING FEELING" THAT HE IS "UNKNOWN, MYSTIC." JAPAN TIMES THOUGHT THAT "IN SETTING HUMILITY AS ONE OF MOST

IMPORTANT AIMS," IT APPARENT THAT PRESIDENT AWARE  
OF NEED FOR A LASTING PEACE BASED ON IDEAS, NOT  
WEAPONS." TO THAT END, SAID JAPAN TIMES, A GREAT  
DEAL OF CONSULTATIONS, ESPECIALLY WITH LIKE-MINDED  
NATIONS, WILL BE NECESSARY, AND THEREIN IS SIGNIFICANCE  
OF VICE PRESIDENT MONDALE'S TRIP. IN CONCLUSION,  
JAPAN TIMES SPECULATED THAT "NEW SPIRIT" WILL  
"DOUBTLESSLY MEAN RAISING JAPANESE-AMERICAN  
PARTNERSHIP TO NEW LEVEL."

3. AS REFTTEL INDICATES, INAUGURATION RECEIVED  
HEAVY TV PLAY HERE, INCLUDING LIVE COVERAGE BY ONE  
NETWORK DURING WEE HOURS AND SEVERAL PRIME-TIME  
SPECIALS FOLLOWING EVENING.  
HODGSON

NOTE BY OC/T: NOT PASSED TO ALL OECD CAPITALS.  
LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 04 TOKYO 01068 240940Z

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

NNN

## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** INAUGURATION  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Sent Date:** 24-Jan-1977 12:00:00 am  
**Decaption Date:** 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 22 May 2009  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
**Document Number:** 1977TOKYO01068  
**Document Source:** CORE  
**Document Unique ID:** 00  
**Drafter:** n/a  
**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** N/A  
**Errors:** N/A  
**Expiration:**  
**Film Number:** D770024-1039  
**Format:** TEL  
**From:** TOKYO  
**Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Image Path:**  
**ISecure:** 1  
**Legacy Key:** link1977/newtext/t19770123/aaaaatxj.tel  
**Line Count:** 139  
**Litigation Code IDs:**  
**Litigation Codes:**  
**Litigation History:**  
**Locator:** TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM  
**Message ID:** a7092bd2-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc  
**Office:** ACTION EA  
**Original Classification:** LIMITED OFFICIAL USE  
**Original Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Original Previous Classification:** n/a  
**Original Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Page Count:** 3  
**Previous Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Previous Classification:** LIMITED OFFICIAL USE  
**Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Reference:** n/a  
**Retention:** 0  
**Review Action:** RELEASED, APPROVED  
**Review Content Flags:**  
**Review Date:** 11-Jan-2005 12:00:00 am  
**Review Event:**  
**Review Exemptions:** n/a  
**Review Media Identifier:**  
**Review Release Date:** n/a  
**Review Release Event:** n/a  
**Review Transfer Date:**  
**Review Withdrawn Fields:** n/a  
**SAS ID:** 3517007  
**Secure:** OPEN  
**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** JAPAN VIEWS THE CARTER INAUGURATION  
**TAGS:** PFOR, JA, US, (CARTER, JIMMY)  
**To:** STATE  
**Type:** TE  
**vdkgvwkey:** odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS\_Docs/a7092bd2-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc  
**Review Markings:**  
Margaret P. Grafeld  
Declassified/Released  
US Department of State  
EO Systematic Review  
22 May 2009  
**Markings:** Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009